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FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1908.

Can the Republicans Afford It?

The refusal of the House Committee on
the Election of the President to report the
bill for the publicity of campaign
contributions, and the method employed
by the chairman to prevent committee
action on the bill, are not calculated to
win glory for the Republican majority.
This is one of the measures which John
Sharp Williams thinks would be promptly
passed if it were brought to vote, and
the fact that unusual measures were re-
sorted to in order to strangle it in com-
mittee shows that the Republicans do not
want it to pass. In view of recent re-
velations as to the sources of campaign
funds, and the popular feeling aroused
by them, it seems incredible that a meri-
torious piece of legislation intended to
minimize the evils resulting from the
employment of vast secret electoral funds
should find so little support in the party
of great moral ideas.

The principal bill before the committee
is that introduced by Mr. McCall, of
Massachusetts, and endorsed by the Na-
tional Publicity Bill Organization. It
provides that all campaign contributions
for use in Federal elections shall be
made to a duly authorized political com-
mittee; that the committee shall keep de-
tailed accounts of receipts and expendi-
tures, and that a sworn statement set-
ting forth the committee's financial trans-
actions shall be filed within thirty days
after the election with the Clerk of the
House. Provision is made, as in the
New York law, for summary judicial in-
quiry into failure to comply with the act.
The measure is simply designed to intro-
duce into the dark and devious ways of
campaign committees the healthful light
of publicity. Similar legislation has been
found useful in New York, and it ought
to be enacted in every State, as well as
by Congress.

The failure of the Republican majority
to permit the passage of a measure to
promote the purity of elections and to
minimize electoral corruption, against
which no constitutional objections can be
urged, will assuredly leave a bad impres-
sion in the minds of the people. A Presi-
dential election is now coming on, so far
as financing is concerned. Four years
ago both parties accepted contributions
from corporations and other questionable
sources. The Democratic minority is
willing to help put a stop to that sort of
thing. Will the majority dare go on
record as favorable to underhand election
financing?

Mr. John A. Johnson is being eagerly
sought by lecture bureaus. Better take
them up, Yon! A bird in the hand is
worth a whole lot of imaginary fowls in
the bush.

Investigate the Beef Trust.

We are in favor of Representative
Hitchcock's resolution for another in-
vestigation of the so-called beef trust.
There is possibly no such thing as the "beef
trust," any more than there is a tangi-
ble organization to which the term "coal
trust" may be accurately given; but there
are arrangements and agreements and a
network of common interests that virtu-
ally control the supply of beef and coal,
two great commodities of every-day and
universal use, and the price of these
commodities is somewhere fixed by an
effective decree—now raised, now lowered,
in accordance with the purposes and
methods of those who command the beef
and coal trade. Just now, the price of
beef is up, that of coal down. Who put
the price of one commodity up and the
price of the other down, nobody knows,
but there is a well-defined feeling that it
is done by orders from headquarters, and
that the forces of supply and demand
have little to do directly with either movement.

In the case of beef, present prices are
the highest attained since 1902, and the
packers make the usual plea that beef
and other meats are scarce. They assert
that fewer cattle are coming to market,
that the high prices of grain and proven-
dent prevented farmers from feeding the
usual number of animals, and so on. At
the same time that prices to the whole-
saler and retailer are increased, it is
alleged that the prices paid to cattle pro-
ducers for beef on the hoof have been
lowered; so that the trust or combina-
tion reaps vast profits at both ends of
the transaction. A middleman is quoted
in a New York paper as saying that an
inquiry into the affairs of the beef trust
would show "what a perfect business
machine is in operation, which has the
middleman and retailer as firmly in its
grasp as the producer of cattle, sheep,
and hogs and the consumer. Even the
government will find it difficult to trace
a criminal fault in the system."

The system, or combination, or trade
agreement, or whatever it is, ought to be
inquired into once more by the Bureau
of Corporations. Perhaps the inquiry may
do no more good than the last one, which
came very near applying the whitewash
brush. Yet it may develop something
worth knowing as to the ways and means
by which the American people are made
to pay for the necessities of life, not the
market price created by the natural
law of demand and supply, but some arti-
ficial price established by an intangible
authority beyond the reach of the law.
We are in need of a good deal of enlight-
enment on the methods of modern busi-
ness, especially as they affect the inter-
ests of the whole people.

By and by, Mr. Taft will look in at the
War Department.

Mr. Thomas E. Watson will wind up
in the Presidential race right where the

Washington baseball team generally
winds up in the baseball-pennant chase.
That's one reason we like him.

Race-track Evil—Fight to Finish.

"You are not asked to accomplish the impossible
or to write upon the statute books a visionary
scheme of moral reform. You are asked to rid
our law of a vicious discrimination whereby offenses
equally condemned by the constitution are punished
as crimes if committed in one place, and are en-
couraged by the absence of suitable penalty if com-
mitted in another."—Gov. Hughes.

This statement of the race-track gam-
bling question as applied to New York
applies with equal force to the District
of Columbia.

Here, outside a mile limit and within
an inclosure, under various half-splitting
interpretations of a doubtful statute, com-
mon gamblers openly carry on an iniqui-
tous business that would be summarily
suppressed if attempted elsewhere in the
District. By standing on one foot and
then on the other and making a pretense
of keeping "on the move," these black-
legs from New York, who pay the race-
track association well for the privilege,
conform to a ridiculous regulation that
permits "perambulating bookmaking" and
thus enjoy official immunity and protec-
tion.

The business is not only iniquitous
and demoralizing, a deadly drain upon the
community, but brings the law into con-
tempt and makes of the law officers the
laughingstock of the malefactors who
thrive at the city's expense.

The issue cannot be clouded by the false
assertion that the movement to wipe out
legalized and organized track gambling
means an attack upon the sport of racing.
It means nothing of the sort. Racing
properly conducted, divorced from its
vice-producing, crime-breeding, dishonest
gambling attachment, will be welcomed
and promoted throughout the land. But
if the sport cannot exist without legalized
gambling, it deserves to be outlawed, as it
surely will be outlawed, throughout the
land.

To-day the District Committee of the
Senate of the United States will take up
the anti-gambling bill. The crooks now
infesting the city and their conscienceless
backers, encouraged by the temporary
victory at Albany, are indulging in loud-
mouthed boasts and giving out their
"straight tips" that a way will be found
to kill the Sims bill. Let the lie be given
to them promptly and emphatically. Then
let the whole offensive outfit of blacklegs,
touts, and tipsters be banished from the
Capital never to return.

We knew that pesky little Castro party
would get chummy as soon as our feet
landed on the other side of the contin-
ent!

Backsliding in Crackpotdom.

Strange, wondrous strange, is this news
we hear from down Georgia way these
days. We should not consider it, were it
not vouched for by newspapers true
and tried; newspapers everlastingly
honest and of good repute!

From what we are able to gather, "re-
form" in the Empire State of the South
is on the wane—perhaps temporarily, to
be sure, but on the wane, for all that!
Railroad bating has begun to pall; anti-
everything no longer enthralls the yokels
and the sand diggers. One venturesome
citizen, noted for his erstwhile con-
servatism, has dared beard the Hoke
Smith in his lair—so far for the office the
Hon. Hoke so strenuously adorns! And
he do say—as for backsliding Georgia
—that from Rabun Gap to Tybee Light,
the "wool hats" are whooping things up
for the anti-Hoke "butter-in!" "Too
much 'reform' is the opposition's battle
cry." "Too with 'reform,'" one here-
tofore dignified old paper puts it. At all
events, there's something doing down
that way, so we learn.

An ominous shadow from the county
of Butts—"grand old Butts," the spell-
binders call it—forecasts, perhaps, the be-
ginning of the end of "reform" in Georgia.
Judge Frank Z. Curry, the noblest Butte
of them all, champion of more different
kinds of "reform" than you could shake
a stick at in three trials, advocate of a
tax on soda water, theatrical tickets, and
trust-made hymn books, recently met the
enemy and he is "their'n!" The octopus
gripped him down with exceeding dis-
patch, and of the Lion of Butts there re-
mained not one infinitesimal greasy spot
to tell the sad and harrowing tale!

Says the Rome (Ga.) Tribune-Herald:
"Judge Curry, of Butts, who ran for the senate
on a platform of reform, has failed to
carry his own county. How sad the fate."
How sad, indeed! We weep with our
hyphenated kinsman in Dixie! "Reform"
has hit the toboggan for fair! There can
be no doubt about it! When Georgia
seems to put a tax on soda water, hymn
books, and theater tickets, "reform" has
lost its nerve! When the banner of the
Lion of Butts trails in the dust, and he
finds his trombone stuffed full of cotton-
battling, then is the future of "reform"
cheerless and silenced is its alien call.

And shall the mighty Hoke go glimmer-
ing, too, alongside the Lion of Butts?
Shall his greatness fade even as suddenly
as it blazed into glorious reality these
few short moons ago? Perish the thought;
it cannot be! We decline to believe in
miracles! We pin our faith to the Hon.
Hoke until every vote is counted. True,
the fall of the Lion of Butts is disquiet-
ing—awful. But even if all is lost save
Hoke, there is still hope for "reform!"
On with the fight! We shall see what we
shall see!

Senator Hale can't see any goblins on

the horizon.

A Doubled Army.

An injudicious exploitation of a scheme
for doubling the United States army has
placed in jeopardy the worthy project
of increasing the pay of the commissioned
personnel and the enlisted force of the
military-naval establishments. This aug-
mentation of the army is as yet a most
impalpable theory. It is a subject which
is being discussed in the General Staff of
the War Department in connection with
the idea that hereafter legislation sug-
gested by the War Department for the
benefit of the army should be consistent
and general, and not fragmentary as it
has been all along. The publicity which
has been given to this fanciful project
has met with protest from members of
Congress, and especially from Senator
Hale, in terms which are entirely just-
ified, the more so if the disclosure of Mr.
Taft's intentions for army increase con-
tribute in any measure to imperil that
legislation which is so much needed by
the officers and enlisted men in the form
of an increase of pay, and which seems
to be such a promising condition.

If there is any serious plan to double
the army, with a corresponding increase
in its officers, there has been a grave
mistake in strategy in announcing that
purpose at a time when Congress is mak-
ing desperate efforts to keep the expendi-

tures within reasonable limits. It gives
the Senators an opportunity to say that
they are in favor of it as far as they are
represented by such a plan under considera-
tion by the General Staff, regard the funds in
the public Treasury as for their special
benefit, even at the sacrifice of needed
improvements and the development of na-
tional resources. The army and the navy
are deserving of special consideration by
Congress, but this is no time to spring
on the public a scheme which would
double the already large expenditure
which is necessary for the support of the
military establishment.

A man has written a letter to the Mem-
phis Commercial-Appeal inquiring how
much it will cost him to buy the legisla-
ture. Of course, the Memphis paper
is puzzled for a reply, it all depending
upon the use the man wants to put the
legislature to after he gets it bought up.

The Fifth Avenue Hotel, in New York,
is no more. Time was when it was con-
sidered quite the proper thing to stop at
the Fifth Avenue—if you had the price.

"A Pennsylvania town has decided to
issue marriage licenses for nothing," says
the Baltimore American. What's the
matter with the girls in that neighbor-
hood?

No lingering in the lap of spring for
winter this year. This is election year,
and nothing but conservatism goes.

Gov. Hughes begs to submit a few
tricker broken observations!

No true friend of reform will insist that
the Wisconsin exponent of the unwar-
ranted variety call himself "Law-for-ay."

The new Senator from Florida doesn't
look one-half as much like "Alkali Ike" as
his newspaper pictures make him.

That woman who is claimed by Evelyn
Nesbit to be her double seems to keep
mighty quiet about it. Nobody will
blame her for desiring to keep it as dark
as possible, however.

"No man alive is free from faults,"
sings Paul Cook, in the Birmingham Age-
Herald. Go to! Ask Mr. Jacob Rissi!

We like the Duke d'Abruzzi, and his
royal cousin is our great and good friend,
but if they don't end this cruel suspense
soon and tell us what is what, we'll
think they're pretty mean, anyhow!

We don't know what to think of things
in the world. That is soon to have its
first newspaper, while China has had
several for a thousand years or more. And
yet, look at both of them!

"Admiral Robley D. Evans has come
ashore and begun a series of mud baths,"
says the Louisville Courier-Journal. But
not, gentle reader, because he indorsed
the Reuter's article, as you may have
supposed at first blush!

King Manuel of Portugal probably
imagines he has the world's supply of
trouble cornered completely.

Mr. Leslie Carter's pet pig ate her new
spring hat recently. If it was one of
those "Merry Widow" things, that pig
shouldn't want anything else to eat for
several weeks.

A Kansas church has decided to abolish
guessing contests at all church fairs here-
after. Evidently, this institution believes
in playing sure things only; such as oys-
ter suppers and strawberry festivals, for
instance!

"You would not take me for a marry-
ing man," says the Prince de Sagan. It
is up to Mme. Gode to make the answer
to this one large unanimous "No."

A New York man tried to commit
suicide by drinking furniture polish.
Parties who live in prohibition States
could have informed him that that is a
rather slow procedure, even though it may
be reasonably sure!

By noting the mean, envious, and spite-
ful remarks of the Houston Post and the
Atlanta Georgian, Franklin Pierce
Adams will be able to gather some idea
of the rank jealousy raging within their
breasts because of his late delightful so-
journ in Wonderful Washington.

A man in Chicago can sleep only two
hours out of every twenty-four. It is
hard enough to be thus afflicted any-
where, but it's particularly hard in Chi-
cago, we imagine.

"If the Republican party of the United
States is as game as it is in the Southern
States, there will be two Republican na-
tional conventions," says the Knoxville
Sentinel. We rather think one Jim-crow
convention would be more likely.

A Boston man wants to know what will
break his parrot of the habit of using
profane language. Perhaps transferring
him to an atmosphere not so strono-
ously intellectual might help some.

The Denver papers have fixed a rate of
something like \$14 per day for delegates
to the Democratic convention. They prob-
ably realize that the anti-free-paw laws
will greatly cut down the aggregate at-
tendance.

A Tennessee newspaper has killed the
peach crop. Evidently, it occurred to the
editor rather suddenly that he had over-
looked something due the neighborhood.

UNPRODUCTIVE OUTGO.

Policy of Enlarging Military at Ex-

pense of Productive Expenditure.

From the New York Evening Post.
There was force in Senator Hale's com-
plaint that the military appropriations
were eating up all the funds, so that
nothing was left, this year, for public
buildings or river and harbor improve-
ments. Political abuses in connection
with the latter kind of public outlay have
undoubtedly occurred, and will continue
to occur. One thing, however, may be
said about expenditure for courthouses,
post-offices, deepening the channels of
rivers and ports, building breakwaters,
jettyes, etc. That is a productive expendi-
ture; while money spent on ships and
guns is absolutely unproductive. In-
cidental and temporarily, of course, em-
ployment is furnished to a certain num-
ber of men in shipyards and elsewhere,
and the actually necessary military
establishment must be had; but the great
bulk of the money laid out in battle ships
and ordnance is so much capital made
unproductive. Other government ap-
propriations yield at least some return
to the money invested. Hence it is only a
reasonable policy always to hold down
the unproductive expenditure in favor of
the productive, instead of doing the re-
verse, as is proposed by the administra-
tion this year. This is to omit mention
of the most conclusive arguments against
extravagance in military appropriations.
We mean, of course, the moral ones.

Imperialism as an Issue.

From the Charleston News and Courier.
Tariff reform, not imperialism, should
be the paramount issue of 1908; but im-
perialism is of incomparably more im-
portance now than it was eight
years ago.

The Political Situation.

From the New York Sun.
This is the political situation in a nut-
shell: A man who is nominated expects
to be defeated for President by a man
who says he will not run.

Enemy's Headquarters.

From the Milwaukee Sentinel.
Mr. Bryan is not at all surprised by the
news of great anarchistic activity in New
York.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

A WASHINGTON EPISODE.

He speeches made and gathered votes
among the boys at home.
He thought that he would like to be an-
nouncer to Rome.
The Congressman he'd hustled for camped
on the White House mat,
But had to tell him later on he couldn't
get him that.

He took a snop around about where
good positions were
And found there was a vacancy at seven
thousand per.
The Congressman he'd hustled for was
driven away.
But had to tell him later on he couldn't
get him that.

We won't prolong the woeeful tale; he
drives a buck truck.
His pay is forty plunks per month and he
is quite in luck.
The Congressman he'd hustled for pro-
claims it loud and fast.
And says he had an awful time to even
get him that.

A Game Finish.

"Sir, kin you assist me—"
"Not a cent!"
"Assist me to find de First National
Bank? I wish to open a large account."

The Situation.

"Are you able to keep a cook?"
"Financially, yes. Diplomatically, no."

Always a Way.

"How do you manage to live, now that
they've stopped racing?"
"I'm minding book on the foreign mar-
riages," answered the knight of the pen-
cil. "Even money that the Countess
Sneezeitch will be back in six weeks."

Right with Us.

Where are the jokes of yesterday?
Flown away?
Nay, nay.
They're here.

Resourceful.

"The folks at home is kicking because
you haven't got 'em a post-office build-
ing yet."
"How's the season been?" inquired
the Congressman thoughtfully.
"Fine and favorable."
"Explain that it's due to my influence
with the weather bureau."

Society Buds.

"Well the spring buds are out."
"Yes. And did you ever see such hats
in all your life?"

Choosing the Time.

"How is steel these days?" inquired
the minister.
"Steady," answered the broker. "But
I hope, person, you ain't thinking of get-
ting into the market."
"Oh, no. We merely want to ask a
certain gentleman for an organ."

ADRIPT WITH THE TIMES.

From the Birmingham Age-Herald.

THE LIMIT.

Say, I'm weary, say, I'm sad,
Say my race is ended,
Nothing left to what I had,
Tollings unbefriended.

Say I'm hungry, say I'm cold,
Say the world betrays me,
Say I'm weak and growing old,
Say Dame Fortune hates me.

Say my life is wasted,
Say I'm down and say I'm out,
Say my life is wasted,
Say I'm down and say I'm out.

Sweetest joys untasted,
Sweetest joys untasted,
Sweetest joys untasted,
Sweetest joys untasted.

Say I'm broke and worse than that,
Say I'm done with chaffing,
Still the "Merry Widow" had
Keeps me laughing, laughing!

Not He.

"I suppose he is one of the toilers?"
"Nonsense! He doesn't work, he's a
reformer."

A Modest Bard.

Let others choose a lofty theme
And measure verses there.
For flights beyond the nimble stars,
In truth, I do not care.

Let others climb to dizzy heights
Beyond the common view,
I'll plod along my lowly way
And sing the peck-a-bo!

A Philosopher.

He couldn't make a living.
Yet, he knew
What Teddy in the White House
Ought to do.

Upon a croaker barrel
Top he sat,
And when he wasn't talking,
Down he spat.

He ran the risk of starving,
You inter?
Oh, no—his wife took boarders,
So much mer.

Her Mark.

"I shall never forget my wife," said
the widower.
"Poor man! She must have been very
dear to you."
"Well, it isn't that exactly. She left
a scar on my face and every time I look
in the glass I'm bound to think of her."

The Chauffeur.

The chauffeur is a funny chap.
As you will all agree.
He doesn't seem to care a rap
For rights like you and me.

If I should go to heaven when
I leave this vale of care,
I'd be the most surprised of men
To find a chauffeur there!

Formal and Informal Eloquence.

From the Boston Globe.
Speaker Cannon made a beautiful
moral speech to the college-boy delegates
who called upon him at the Capitol, say-
ing in his formal address: "Be practical,
be patriotic, have integrity, have courage.
The world produces not many John the
Baptists, to cry with a great voice in the
wilderness. God is ever the same, but
to his individual conception. All of our
Christian values are supported, and we
all operate together." Then, he said to
them informally: "Boys, I am d—d glad
to see you!"

A Temporary Reform.

From the New York Tribune.
The friction now observable in the
House of Representatives has had one
good effect. We notice that when Mr.
Sterling, of Illinois, in charge of the
railroad bill, asked unanimous consent
on Monday that members have leave for
three days to print speeches on that
measure Mr. Williams objected and cut
off the flow of posthumous oratory. Some-
day, we hope, the Congressional Record
will print only speeches actually deliv-
ered, and thus become a genuine transcript
of what Congress says and does.

In Round Numbers.

From the Boston Herald.
They might have made the army ap-
propriation bill provide for a round
\$100,000,000 while they were about it, con-
sidering that it comes so close to this
figure. It would then be easier to re-
member the exact proportions of the
biggest thing of the kind ever provided
by Congress in time of peace.

Our Venezuelan Row.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.
Speaking about parlor socialists, what
is this President is getting up with Ven-
ezuela?

CAPITOL GOSSIP.

Another young member of the House

of Representatives from the Sunny South
is Eaton Jackson Bowers, of Bay St.
Louis, Miss. He was born at Canton
forty-three years ago.

He studied at the public schools in
Canton and at the Mississippi Military
Institute, at Pass Christian. Mr. Bow-
ers was self-taught in the law, and was
admitted to the bar in Madison County
at the early age of seventeen years.

He served as Presidential
elector on the Democratic ticket from the
Sixth district of Mississippi in 1903
and from the State-at-large in 1905. His
legislative career began in 1890, when
he was elected to the State senate. Four
years later he was elected to the House
of Representatives from Hancock County;

was a member of the State Democratic
committee for four years and a delegate
to the Democratic national convention in
1900.

His first Congress was the Fifty-eighth.
He was returned to the Fifty-ninth and
re-elected to the Sixtieth Congress with
practically no opposition. Representative
Bowers is one of the most important
members of the House, that of Approp-
riations. He doesn't need any other
assignment, for the Appropriations this
Congress manages to consume all the
time of the members on the committee.

He, with the others on the committee,
is a martyr to the cause, as the only leg-
islation of any consequence passed so far
this session, with one exception, has been
the appropriation bills.

Gov. Proctor, of Vermont, son of the
late Senator Proctor, of that State, was
on the floor of the Senate yesterday. His
visit to Washington at this time is of no
political significance, as he has already
announced that he will not be a candi-
date for his father's seat in the United
States Senate, leaving the field clear for
the other avowed candidates. Senator
Dillingham had the young governor in
charge.

Senator Money, of Mississippi, who has
been detained at home by sickness thus
far this Congress, is occupying his seat
again in the Senate. The Senator is six-
ty-nine years old, and has been in poor
health for some time. He served in the
Confederate army from the beginning of
the war until September, 1864, when he
was forced to retire on account of defective
eyesight.

Representative Carlin, from the neigh-
boring city of Alexandria, considering this
is his first Congress, is a hustler from
wayback. He has already introduced sev-
eral bills in the House of Representatives
of importance to the residents of the Dis-
trict of Columbia and incidentally to his
constituents. Early in the game he took
active interest in the building of the sub-
station for the railroads entering Wash-
ington over Long Bridge. He has enlisted
in the cause the interest and assistance
of Senator Martin, from